

IMPORTANT

MEMO

To: Building Principals
Linda Hoge, Sue Ringquist, Bill Knickrehm

From: Lynda Steenrod, Director of Special Services

Re: Eligibility for IBI or PSR Services

Date: February 21, 2007

As you know the Medicaid Rules were recently changed to clarify that only schools may bill Medicaid for IBI (Intensive Behavioral Intervention) and PSR (Psycho-Social Rehabilitation) services. Private providers may not bill Medicaid for services provided in schools, they are only allowed to bill for services provided in the community and the child's home. However, the school district still has the legal obligation to provide a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE). At the beginning of January, 50 students were receiving either IBI or PSR services in our schools. Although we have allowed many private providers to continue in our schools who had a prior Memorandum of Understanding signed by the agency, parent, and school, we have until July 1, 2007, to come in full compliance with this change in policy. That means that if the IEP team determines that these services are required in order to provide FAPE, we must either provide the service with our current staff or contract with a private provider to provide this IEP service.

In talking with representatives from Health & Welfare, they recommended that the school district staff determine eligibility for these services if they are required in the schools. As we will be the agency billing Medicaid for these services, it is important that we determine eligibility, rather than leave it up to a private provider, who may have little knowledge regarding the student's performance in the school and what is required to provide FAPE to the student.

Therefore, we have three (3) months of school to determine which of the current students receiving services qualify for these services and require these services as part of their IEP. This is just a reminder that your teams must be diligent in ensuring that the proper assessments are completed and conversations are conducted with the IEP team to determine if these services will be discontinued at the end of the school year or written into the IEP. In developing our need for contracted services, it will be extremely helpful to know exactly how many students will need contracted services. For assessment information and eligibility criteria, please refer to the memo sent on December 4, 2006.

In the meantime, Special Services will be drafting Board policy for contracting with private providers as well as developing contract language and a fee schedule. As of our last information, thirteen (13) of our schools have private providers providing services so this memo is being sent to everyone in case this information has changed. If you have any questions please contact me.

cc: Bob Devine, Patti Mortensen